

Originator

Item

Parks and Recreation Manager's Report

Date

5/13/2015

Description

**May 13, 2015 PARC Meeting
Park and Recreation Manager's Report
Item 5.B.**

1. InterCity Regional Trail Project – Three Rivers Park District is moving ahead with sidewalk removal and grading of the trail on Old Cedar Avenue adjacent to Wright's Lake at the retaining wall location has started and will continue the week of May 4. Sheeting for the retaining wall is scheduled to start the week of May 4.
2. Old Cedar Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation Project – Council awarded the bid for the project to Kraemer. A groundbreaking ceremony is being planned for late May – date and time TBD. Staff continues to receive inquiries related to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) habitat restoration project in the vicinity of the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge and adjacent Bluff and Hogback Ridge Trails. This FWS project is a separate and independent project from the bridge project. Many have voiced concerns with what is perceived as the destruction of habitat with the tree removal and find it unnecessary for bridge construction. Staff has explained that bridge construction has not begun yet and provided the appropriate contact at FWS for this project to the individuals with the concerns.
3. Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project - The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District is interested in moving forward with implementing a Normandale Lake Water Quality Improvement Project. A water quality improvement project would attempt to control Curlyleaf pondweed, establish a more diverse native plant community, and improve water quality. The current preferred treatment alternative is a partial drawdown of the lake by the existing 18-inch bypass pipe and herbicide treatment of the remaining open water. This project is in response to a 2007 petition from the city and as a result this would be a District funded project.

Engineering staff is looking to work cooperatively with the District to re-initiate conversations with the various regulatory agencies. Should a water quality project be deemed favorable by the regulatory agencies engineering staff and the District would begin a public education and outreach component for the project.

4. Various Parks & Recreation and Human Services staff are participating in workgroups to begin implementation of the Metropolitan Council's recently approved Thrive MSP 2040 comprehensive plan. The works groups are as follows:
 - Legacy outcomes: State Statute requires projects receiving Parks and Trails Legacy Funds (PTLF) to include measurable outcomes and a plan for measuring and evaluating the results. The work group will discuss how to tie the outcomes to the four pillars of the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan and provide suggestions of measurable outcomes that may be used for PTLF projects. Tentative timeframe: April-June. Approximately 1 meeting/month.

- Master plan engagement: The 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan requires a regional park/trail master plan to include a community engagement plan and describe the community engagement process that seeks to mitigate existing racial, ethnic, cultural or linguistic barriers and include people of diverse races, ethnicities, classes, ages, abilities and national origin. The work group will discuss how this process will be implemented and what information agencies will need from the Met Council for this community engagement. Tentative timeframe: April-May. 1-2 meetings/month.
- Webgrants training/use: The Council is moving to a web-based system for its grants. Agencies will be able to apply for grants, upload required application documents, and submit reimbursement requests online. We will offer training for your staff to use this program. You may have different staff who a) apply for grants, and b) submit reimbursement requests. Very tentative timeframe: May or June (depending on when the Council is ready to go “live” with the program). 1 training session for applications; 1 for reimbursement requests.
- Equity related policy work: This will entail developing the regional parks equity toolkit, a competitive park equity grant program, and the parks ambassador program. The Council will collaborate with “regional park implementing agencies, partners, community based organizations, advocacy groups and other stakeholder groups” on developing the equity toolkit and grant program, as specified in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan. Tentative timeframe: April-December. 1-2 meetings/month.

Requested Action

No action required.

Attachments: